W E S T B R I D G E W A T E R

N E W S L E T T E R

June 1, 1945 Number 8

HELLO:

The news that goes into this greeting every month is chosen principally with the boys in mind, because there are so many compared with the number of girls in service. And yet, speaking of comparative numbers, it seems as if West Bridgewater must stand very high in percentage per population of girls who are wearing Uncle Sam's uniform. So here's a special greeting to you gals--Hello, and are we pretty proud of you!

The weaker sex, so others tell us, are interested mainly in gossip, clothes, and the men in their lives (past, present and future.) Those items are probably in the reverse order, but then--. Here on the home front we'll have to admit we still think along the same lines - but the gossip has become more serious, the vocabulary more unusual - the Yalta Conference, red points, Iwo Jima, rehabilitation, traveling time, swing shift. As for clothes there is not one of us who wouldn't be delighted to swap a dress from Jay's or a hat from Saks 5th Avenue for the blue or khaki or olive green you wear day after day. When you were home on furlough was there a girl who didn't beg to try on your cap and coat and think she looked pretty sharp in it?

"W H A T ' S T H E S C O R E"

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SPORTS

TRACK

"Something new has been added!" Yes, it's true! For the first time in years or the first time, period, Howard High School is going to hold an inter-class track meet. The winners of the various events will run June 2nd in a destrict meet. This meet will be for class "A" schools such as Rockland, where it will be held, and for class "B" schools such as Hanover and Howard. Class "A" teams registered for it are Rockland, Weymouth, Whitman, Abington and Oliver Ames who are also making their debut in track. Class "B" holds for competition so far Hanover, Foxboro and our own dear Howard.

The events for the inter-class affair are the running broad jump, shot-putt, high jump, 100 yd. dash, 220 yd. dash, the quarter-mile, half-mile, and mile. Points will be earned according to the order of finish, as usual. It is expected that the Juniors will dominate in most of the events.

BASEBALL

Water, water, water, and all of it in our baseball field! That is the cry that's heard as our expectant heriòc squad dashes across the lawn, past the bicycle shed, over Drury's field, across the road beside the town hall to their awaiting bath in the infield and shower in the daisy field. Yes, we've had a lot of rain lately. Enough, in fact, to cancel many practices in the last few weeks and several games.

Howard has lost four games to date with the scores being:

Holbrook - 7, Howard - 4; Brockton 2nds - 19, Howard - 5; Middleboro - 11, Howard - 2; Brockton 2nds - 12, Howard - 2. The games were played in the above order. The Middleboro game was stopped in the fifth inning because of, yes, you're right again, it was rain. From the last of the third inning until the end of the fifth the players and spectators who didn't seek shelter in cars were drenched. Twice a game with East Bridgewater has been rained out, on the 4th and 17th of this month, May. A return game at Middleboro this afternoon may well be cancelled for as this is being written the heavens have just stopped spilling over but there are threatening signs again. But if there is no rain and the game is played, we hope to report to you next time, a victory.

H.H.S.

Wilbur Tracy was the guest of honor at a surprise party held recently at the home of Jacqueline Vandyke on North Elm Street. The party given to Tracy by the Senior class of Howard High, of which he is a member, was a farewell party for him. He left April 13 for Wolfeboro, N.H., where his parents have taken up residence. He received a wallet and a sum of money.

The students in Matfield now have the opportunity to ride on the school bus and boy! are they taking the chance. We bet you are saying to yourself, "Just because I'm out of high school!"

Instead of the "love bug biting" the young people now, it's the dogs who are biting. Perhaps they can't get enough meat at home! You know it is hard to get both red points and meat.

During the month of March seventy-three per cent of the high school pupils bought $91.30 worth of war stamps and bonds.

On Wednesday, April 4th, the girls' basketball team, their coach, Miss Dwyer, and the cheerleaders enjoyed a banquet at a Whitman Inn.

The Howard High School Recreation Center opened at the Town Hall Friday, April 20. Each Friday evening from 7:30 to 11 o'clock games, dancing, and refreshments are available at the Center to students of the eighth through the twelfth grades.

Richard Bourne is on his way home.

Richard Goldie, James Asack and Alan Read passed Army ASTRP Exam. They will qualify for two semesters of college. After basic they will have the opportunity to qualify for further college training.

May 23rd - H.H.S. Track Meet.

The greatest innovation these ancient walls have seen for some time will be the presence of the 8th grade in the High School building next year. We look down from our superior years and wonder if they will seem like infants!

The Senior Class yearbook is on its way to the printer, and the staff heaves its customary sigh of relief. Barbara Chisholm wrote the class ode to the tune of "There Are Such Things." Remember that? The Class Day program promises to be unusually amusing and original- we hope. The yearbook is dedicated to the memory of Edwin Piver, a former member of the class.

V-E Day was celebrated at the assembly which featured original material written expressly for the occasion by the students. If you boys had heard it you would have realized that the high school students are seriously aware that the problems of the coming days will be theirs. The customary frivolity of high school days covers minds really thoughtful when the need occurs.

"D I D Y O U K N O W"

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The General Eisenhower waste paper drive sponsored by Troop 1 of the Boy Scouts went over the top with the grand total of 36,000 pounds of paper. This is more than 1,000 pounds for each scout and the boys are justly proud. They also collected 500 pounds of rags.

United Nations Clothing Drive under Edith Blanchard collected over 5,000 pounds.

At a recent Grange meeting a shower was given to William Gibson and Marion Alger, who will be married next month. A mock wedding, complete with shotgun, was most amusing.

Minetta Bourne of Cochesett is working in Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Snell have moved into a new home on Spring Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pingree recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Edward "Mike" Pingree is a corporal, stationed in England.

Dick Goldie appeared at school the other day wearing a German paratrooper's helmet sent home by "Geezil." You almost couldn't see Dick from the neck up.

The engagement of Mary Theresa Guinea to William E. Sweeney has been announced. The wedding will occur in May.

The "goings on" in the old home town have tickled the fancy of the voters. Recently a meeting was held to set up certain building regulations. Among them were the following: "No building shall be constructed without a permit from the selectmen." In connection with this article, the measure was approved that a permit be secured when to build a dog house or shingle the roof of a bird house. "Throwing banana peels, oranges, apples or any slippery substance on the sidewalks; flying kites, playing ball, or roller-skating in the streets and allowing horses or swine to run loose or graze on the side of the road is also forbidden."

According to a Massachusetts Department of Agriculture report: "Mason W. Alger of West Bridgewater spent the winter in Florida with a fellow market gardener growing and harvesting potatoes in Gould, Dade County." They report production on an area of 93 acres as 40,000 bushels. They found labor conditions tough, growing conditions excellent, and plant pests a problem requiring a spray application every five days. No wonder they are proudly displaying pictures of their farm land with its growing crop, and exhibiting some beautiful specimens of their winter's handiwork.

G.I.Bill--We tried, a few letters back, to give you some idea of how the G.I.Bill was working out. Clyfton Bourne-H.H.S. '41 is still the only actual "case" we have and we are glad to tell you he has finished his course at prep school and passed the exam for M.I.T. where he enters in July, all at Uncle Sam's expense. Pretty good, huh?

"S E R V I C E M E N ' S N O T E S"

PFC George Goldie, Jr., writes in a recent letter received by his parents that he is stationed with a signal corps group in a good - sized town in Germany and is billeted in a private home. The town is dotted with white flags which hang from every window, as evidence that the once glorious German town has surrendered.

Robert Mahoney, son of Mrs. Margaret Mahoney of West Center St., recently entered the army and is now assigned to a medical corps stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Pvt. Irving Steffin, Jr., of 324 West Center St., was home on furlough recently from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he completed his basic training. He is attached to a Field Artillery radio unit and qualified as a radio operator. Pvt. Steffin has reported to Fort George G. Meade, Md., for further assignment. Incidentally the army has put 30 pounds onto him.

Sgt. Ernest Rizel, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rizel of 612 North Elm St., has been awarded a fifth Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal for "meritorious achievement" in aerial combat. Sgt. Rizel has one brother also in the armed forces, Seaman Richard Rizel, U.S.N.

S 1/c George Madan, ARM, of Turnpike St., is now stationed on the island of Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. Is life all grass skirts and ukeleles, George?

Emery Soule, son of Mr. and Mrs. Basil Soule of 14 Merritt St., was home recently on his last furlough before overseas duty. Soule was promoted to the rank of sergeant in the Air Corps and is a chief gunner on a B-29.

Pierre Dillenchneider of West Center St., was guest of honor recently at a farewell party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Pross. During the evening games, dancing and refreshments were enjoyed, and a purse of money was presented to the guest of honor. Dillenschneider left April 28th for Camp Devens; from there he went to Georgia for paratrooper training.

Marine PFC Rose Dillenschneider, is a drummer in the Women Marines' Drum and Bugle Corps at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., the only such organization of its type in the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. She has recently appeared in a moving picture "Yankee Doodle's Daughters."

Beatrice Alice Hayward has joined the Army Nurse Corps. Before leaving she was tendered farewell parties by friends and relatives and received numerous gifts which included an identification bracelet from the members of her graduating class at Faulkner Hospital.

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ARM 1/c George MacHardy, recently home on leave for the first time in twenty months, brought with him many interesting souvenirs and stories of the South Pacific. One of his most prized souvenirs is a revolver which he took from a Jap at Bougainville. The markings on the gun identify it as a Smith and Wesson, dated 1871, and made in Springfield.

PFC Ernest Allen is a survivor of the U.S.S. Comfort, hospital ship bombed by the Japs. Allen, serving as a cook and baker aboard the navy-operated ship, was the only army man aboard.

SPAR Lucille Cogswell is home for a twenty-day furlough.

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WATER SUPPLY

The townspeople had quite a session one evening recently trying to decide what should be done about the water supply. As you probably know, the past two seasons have been extremely dry and the Brockton Silver Lake supply has proved inadequate especially in the north end of town. There are two possible ways to handle the situation: increase the size of the mains running from Brockton to West Bridgewater or by drilling artesian wells. As the first would be very expensive, it was voted to get some engineers on the job and see what could be done about the second. The prospects of striking good water seem very bright so maybe by the time you get back we'll be able to offer you a drink of good old well-water. But don't worry about it----- we can find you some ginger ale or what-do-you-like if you don't want well-water.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

The nation is still mourning the loss of its president. No matter what one's political beliefs, this was indeed a hard blow. The real sense of sorrow and loss which swept the nation was a typically American reaction and one which foreigners are at a loss to understand. That his friends and political backers might be grieved seems sensible enough but that anyone who talked or voted against him could possibly regret his passing seems utterly illogical to them. Thank God Americans are good sports all around-not just on the athletic field. We can yell and rant against one man, sing praises and vote for another, BUT IF WE LOSE, that's where the true spirit of our democracy steps in and shows what it's worth; we may be disappointed-some may even be sore-but we all bow to the choice of the majority, climb on the band-wagon and back the winning side for all we're worth. Foreigners think we're crazy because we forget so easily and don't hold political grudges. Well, maybe we are, but it's a swell way of being nuts-we'll string along with it!!!!!

V-E DAY

Listening to the radio practically all day long, the one outstanding thing was not the celebrating, but the lack of it. True, a crowd did gather in Times Square, New York, but almost everyone there was of the bobby-sock variety-just a bunch of youngsters trying to let off steam and work up a real celebration. We've all had the feeling of being a long way from home these past months and the thrill of V-E Day was only the thrill of knowing we had passed the half-way mark and were really on the last lap of the journey back. Too many here at home have part of their hearts in the Pacific; there could be no letdown either on or after V-E Day for them. The first half of the battle is ours and we are prayerfully grateful-but there won't be any all-overboard sense of elation until the other half of the battle is chalked up in our favor. But THEN-oh boy, oh boy, THAT'LL BE THE DAY!!!! The Japs are going to be no push-over. No one underestimates the size of the job that is left but when you think of all the strength released by V-E Day which we can now hurl against them, well even the Japs should have sense enough to be scared. Yes, V-E Day was certainly welcome-the half-way mark on the road to home, BUT ONLY THE HALF-WAY MARK!!!!

Well, here it is, time to say good-bye again. The weather here is just a reflection of the war- it's cold, we even had snow here and there a few days ago but Spring too has reached her half-way mark and Summer, like our true VICTORY DAY, is just BOUND to follow soon.

As ever,